Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A digital volume control device to which a digital input signal to be controlled is supplied which provides for a volume controlled digital output signal, the volume control of said digital input signal being determined by a control input signal, characterized in that the digital volume control device further comprises:

- conversion means for receiving the control signal in the form of a succession of m-bits words having k active bits at a first sample frequency and converting the control signal into an intermediate comprising a succession of m-bits words having j active bits at a second sample frequency at least k/j greater than the first sample frequency;

- averaging means for generating an multiplied signal by multiplying the intermediate signal with the digital input signal and generating the output signal by averaging the multiplied signal.

2. (original) A digital volume control device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the conversion means comprises an up-sampler for up-sampling of the control signal and a bit-stream

converter for converting the up-sampled control signal into the intermediate signal.

3. (original) A digital volume control device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the bit-stream converter is a noise-shaper having a combiner for generating an m-bit combination signal by combining the control signal with an m-bit error signal, a quantizer for generating the intermediate signal by passing-on only the j most significant bits of the combination signal setting the remaining bits to zero, and a feed back loop for generating the error signal out of the quantizer errors.

4. (currently amended) A digital volume control device as claimed in ~~any of the claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, characterized in that j = 1, whereas the averaging means comprises a shift register for multiplying the intermediate signal with the digital input signal.

5. (currently amended) A digital volume control device as claimed in ~~any of the claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, characterized in that the conversion means comprises a low-pass filter is provided for filtering the control signal before up-sampling.

6. (original) A digital volume control device as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the low-pass filter is an infinite impulse response filter.

7. (currently amended) A digital volume control device as claimed in ~~any of the claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, characterized in that the averaging means comprise a low-pass output filter.

8. (original) A digital volume control device as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the low-pass output filter is a infinite impulse response filter.

9. (original) A digital volume control device as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that an up-sampler is provided for up-sampling the digital input signal with a factor k/j, and the low-pass output filter is formed by a finite impulse response filter having k/j taps.

10. (currently amended) A digital volume control device as claimed in ~~any of the claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, characterized in that a dB-to-linear decoder is provided for generating the control signal in dependence upon an n-bit logarithmic control signal.

11.   (original) A digital volume control device as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the output signal of the volume device covers a range of about 94 dB, whereas n = 6, m = 20, and k = 4.

12.   (currently amended) An audio apparatus comprising a digital volume control device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1.